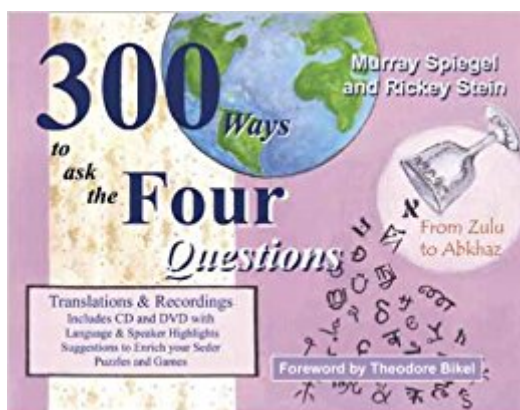


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# 300 Ways To Ask The Four Questions - New Edition



## Synopsis

Book by Murray Spiegel and Rickey Stein

## Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Spiegel-Stein Publishing; 1st edition (January 4, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0615150632

ISBN-13: 978-0615150635

Product Dimensions: 1 x 10.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 18 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,507,875 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Conservative](#) #64 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Movements > Reform](#)

## Customer Reviews

**Book Description** Two nuts in New Jersey pursued a hobby collecting the Four Questions in different languages since as far back as 1971. Then they met each other. The result (14 years later) is 300 Ways to Ask the Four Questions, a delightful trip round the world. Using languages (with unique alphabets, translations and transliterations) we travel to places Jews have lived, and places they've never been heard of. We hear the questions in living languages spoken by hundreds of millions, and dying languages spoken by as few as half a dozen. We hear them in ancient languages, click languages, and made-up languages (Klingon, Pig Latin, Lawyerese and others). With over a hundred photos, a CD and a DVD, background on each speaker, language, and language groups, and with games and puzzles to use in the seder, and a lighthearted attitude that enjoys the diversity of our world, this book is a bet-you-did-not-know-you-needed-it but must-have resource for every family. **About the Authors** Dr. Murray Spiegel, with a background in speech research for telecommunications, has established a reputation for innovative Passover Seders. Since leading his first Seder while in graduate school, Murray has led over 30 Seders -- no two alike. With his wife Randi, Murray has transformed their house into settings that enrich the Passover story: a Bedouin tent; a jumbo jet taking the Israelites out of Egypt; and an ancient Egyptian tomb. His car even carries the NJ license plate "Pesach." Rickey Stein is a pharmacist with life-long interests in languages and Passover. He is particularly knowledgeable on the various writing

systems used by the world's languages. 35 years ago he started translating the Four Questions and hasn't stopped yet. Both Rickey and Murray's Seders have been written up in The New York Times. Review Would one or two languages have permitted us to say Dayenu? Obviously not! The linguist in me takes great delight in this book, clearly the result of painstaking research. How is this night different? On all other nights, we may hunger for the word. On this night, we feast upon it.

--Theodore Bikel, star of screen and stage  
Wherever Jews have lived they have asked the Four Questions in their native language, and now 300 Ways to Ask The Four Questions makes for a multi-cultural Seder like none before in the history of Passover. Each language contributes to Jewish learning at the Seder. My guests have loved using it and laughed at how it makes this night different.

--Noam Zion, author of A Different Night  
Amazing! 300 Ways to Ask the Four Questions is a treasure trove of translations for use at your Seder. Dramatically demonstrates a global reach for this most observed ritual of the Jewish people.

--Dr. Ron Wolfson, Professor, American Jewish University  
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This is such an amazing book. We had a woman from India over at Pesach and she spoke Tamil which happens to be in the book. She read the four questions beautifully! What a treat!

I photocopied several of these, mailed them ahead of time so my guests could practice, At the Seder, I called on people to either read their entire selection or a pre-selected part. Best of all, my nephew showed up with a girl from Spain who was Catholic, I whipped out the book, and she got to read the Four Questions in Spanish for us! This was a real highlight. Too bad it is so Expensive!

Hilarious yet educational

This book is a really great way to engage everyone at your seder. This is a really fun book - buy it!

bought for amazing typography of languages I've never even heard of.

You might argue that getting the four questions asked at the seder is merely a performance moment for the youngest who can articulate them, but that the real business comes afterward. You would be wrong, of course, and nothing proves it more than this absolutely wonderful book. I gave it as a Chanukkah gift (enough lead time to prepare for seder), but having a few of them on the table at Passover is just as good an idea. If the task of telling of the Exodus is to view ourselves in every generation as if we came out of Egypt, this book enhances the essential experience by making us imagine the many destinations that Exodus did or might produce. What does a Japanese seder taste like (wasabi bitter herbs)? How did my great-great grandparents explain things to a curious Polish neighbor (carefully)? What passes for chametz and matzah on Klingon (don't want to think about it)? If the haggadah is a time trip, Spiegel and Stein are our world-wide travel agents. And the book is just so much fun, whether I am flipping through the pages or trying to put the sounds in my own mouth. Why is it almost too much fun? Because it might wind up delaying the answer to the fifth question at the seder: when do we eat?

Co-authored by Murray Spiegel and Rickey Stein, and featuring an informative foreword by Theodore Bikel, "300 Ways To Ask The Four Questions" provides a fascinating , colorfully illustrated, 368-page examination and presentation of the Sedar (including both the Jewish holiday meal and service) from the perspective of a variety of languages and cultures. This massive reference work is the result of some twenty-five years of research in the collection of translation of the Four Questions that form the basis of the Sedar celebration. Contributions were provided by Jews from Uganda to Uzbekistan, the languages range from Abkhaz to Zulu, and even includes sign language. Of special note are the contributions by experts of ancient languages -- including

Egyptian from the time of the Exodus. Substantially enhanced with both a CD and a DVD with language and speaker highlights, "300 Ways To Ask The Four Questions" also features a variety of fun games, puzzles, and parodies., making it a unique and enthusiastically recommended addition to personal, family, synagogue, academic, and community library Judaic Studies reference collections.

A most interesting and facinating book, the authors have researched languages from around the world, the past, the present and event out-of-this-world, to provide the text of the Four Questions in different and special ways. Think not only Spanish, French or Bengal; think Valley Girl? Legalese? Klingon? This book provides the perfect way to enhance your Seder and add something new. I had the fortune to meet with and hear the authors speak about their research of years to produce this book, which also provides information about the translater and background on the language with each section. I recommend this book for generations to enjoy.

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